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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

January 30, 1985

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NICHOLAS PLATT
Executive Secretary
Department of State

COL R. J. AFFOURTIT
Executive Secretary
Department of Defense

SUBJECT: Middle East Arms Sales: Congressional Themes (C)

Congressional testimony and consultations on our Middle East policy begin this week. In light of the decision to undertake a comprehensive study of U.S. security interests and strategy in the Middle East prior to final decisions on specific arms sales and notification, it is very important for all Administration witnesses to offer consistent statements on arms sales. This interim period should be used to help individual Congressmen avoid locking themselves into opposition. (C)

Approved language for testimony is attached at Tab A. Approved talking points for use in commenting on the status of arms sales to Saudi Arabia are at Tab B. (C)

Robert M. Kinnitt
Robert M. Kinnitt

Attachments
As Stated

cc: Mr. Donald P. Gregg

BG George A. Joulwan
Dr. Alton Keel

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Language for Testimony on Middle East Security Issues

The United States continues to maintain cooperative security relationships with all of our friends in the Middle East -- Israel as well as moderate Arab states. Currently, the Administration is reviewing possible arms sales to Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries. Consideration of these sales is taking place in the context of a comprehensive review of American security interests and strategy in the area. This intensive review focuses on how our various programs in the security field complement our efforts in the Middle East peace process and achievement of general stability in the region. When the review is completed in four to six weeks, we expect it to provide the rationale for our actions and proposals in the security field in pursuit of regional peace and stability. In the meantime, the Administration does not expect to submit to the Congress any new security proposals for the region and trusts that the Congress will take no actions concerning arms sales or other security-related matters before the Administration has had the opportunity to make a full presentation to the appropriate Congressional committees.

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**TALKING POINTS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
REGARDING ARMS SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA**

- We have a long-standing security assistance relationship with Saudi Arabia and we want and expect that relationship to continue;
- In that context, we have under continuing review various arms sales to Saudi Arabia and continue to discuss those sales with the SAG;
- We do not have at this time, however, a specific commitment to move a specific arms sales package;
- In the context of our comprehensive look at security-related issues in the area, we expect to come to the Hill after the King's visit with some concrete decisions on Saudi arms;
- Therefore, we urge the Congress not to lock itself into a position on Saudi arms but wait and see the Administration's presentation.